

bordering Afghanistan. Last September, President Musharraf of Pakistan reached an agreement that gave tribal leaders more responsibility for policing their own areas. Unfortunately, tribal leaders were unwilling and unable to go after Al Qaida or the Taliban.

President Musharraf recognizes the agreement has not been successful or well-enforced and is taking active steps to correct it. Earlier this month, he sent in Pakistani forces to go after radicals who seized control of a mosque, and then he delivered a speech vowing to rid all of Pakistan of extremism. Pakistani forces are in the fight, and many have given their lives. The United States supports them in these efforts. And we will work with our partners to deny safe haven to the Taliban and Al Qaida in Pakistan or anywhere else in the world.

Nearly 6 years have passed since 9/11. And as time goes by, it can be tempting to think that the threat of another attack on our homeland is behind us. The NIE report makes clear that the threat is not behind us. It states that Al Qaida will continue to, and I quote, “focus on prominent political, economic, and infrastructure targets with the goal of producing mass cas-

ualties, visually dramatic destruction, significant economic aftershocks, and/or fear among the U.S. population.” It goes on to say that Al Qaida will continue to seek chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear material to use in these attacks.

The men who run Al Qaida are determined, capable, and ruthless. They would be in a far stronger position to attack our people if America’s military, law enforcement, intelligence services, and other elements of our Government were not engaged in a worldwide effort to stop them. We will meet the responsibility that history has given us, we will adapt to changing conditions, and we will not let up until our enemies are defeated and our people are secure.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on July 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 21. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 20, but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Temporary Transfer of the Powers and Duties of the President of the United States *July 21, 2007*

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

This morning I will undergo a routine medical procedure requiring sedation. In view of present circumstances, I have determined to transfer temporarily my Constitutional powers and duties to the Vice President during the brief period of the procedure and recovery.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to

the United States Constitution, this letter shall constitute my written declaration that I am unable to discharge the Constitutional powers and duties of the office of the President of the United States. Pursuant to Section 3, the Vice President shall discharge those powers and duties as Acting President until I transmit to you a written declaration that I am able to resume the discharge of those powers and duties.

July 21 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2007

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Resuming the Powers and Duties of the President of the United States

July 21, 2007

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, this letter shall constitute my written declaration that I am presently able to resume the discharge of the Constitutional powers and duties of the office of the President of the United States. With the transmittal of this letter,

I am resuming those powers and duties effective immediately.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Statement on the Death of King Mohammed Zahir Shah of Afghanistan

July 23, 2007

Laura and I are saddened by the death of Mohammed Zahir Shah, who was King of Afghanistan from 1933 to 1973.

Zahir Shah was a monumental figure in Afghan history, and his life spanned vast changes in that country's political system. He returned to Afghanistan as an ordinary citizen in 2002, shortly after the Taliban regime was removed from power, and continued to play an important part in the life of his country. Zahir Shah supported the goal of a representative and freely

elected government in his homeland, and he encouraged Afghanistan toward democracy and stability. His presence in Afghanistan as a private citizen and "Father of the Nation" for the past several years has been an important factor in rebuilding Afghanistan.

On behalf of the American people, Laura and I extend our condolences to Mohammed Zahir Shah's family and to the people of Afghanistan.